NWTHC - SPRING, 2010

Special Edition

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Under One Roof

Providing Housing Opportunities for Northerners

Northern Housing Forum, 2010: Special Report

Juergen Korn (left) is Development Project Manager with the Yukon Housing Corporation, Bill Semple is a Senior Researcher with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and Al Lyon is the Director of Community and Industry Partnering with the Yukon Housing Corporation. Korn and Lyon are panel members at the Northern Housing Forum, 2010 and Semple is Co-chair and keynote speaker at the forum. This picture was taken in Whitehorse in February, 2010 at the Northern Energy Solutions conference.

Delegates from places as far away as Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Finland and the United States are joining participants from across Canada March 22-25 in Inuvik for the Northern Housing Forum, 2010 (NHF).

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) have spent more than a year planning and preparing for the NHF. It is the latest in a series of Northern Housing Forums hosted in various Circumpolar countries, and the first time it is being held in Canada. The last NHF was in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Scott Reid is the Director of Infrastructure Services for the NWTHC and is Co-chair of the forum.

He says the theme of the forum, 'Sustainable Solutions: *The Future of Northern Housing'* helps set the tone for the week as experts from many areas of the construction, education, government and housing sectors come together to share ideas.

"It's important to be a part of the circumpolar arctic conference because many northern countries are facing similar challenges when it comes to providing sustainable, affordable, and energy efficient housing," said Reid.

"There has been a boom in energy efficient building technologies over the past ten years. New products are hitting the market every day. Climate change is influencing the way we build in the north. The NWTHC is committed to reducing fossil fuel consumption by retrofitting our existing buildings and building new homes that exceed Canada's most stringent energy efficiency standards. To do that, access to the best information is a must. The NHF is one way to help forum participants learn what is working, what to avoid as we move forward, and share what we know about building homes in the north."

Bill Semple is an architect and builder who has been a champion of some of the most progressive and creative housing projects in the North.

As a Senior Researcher for CMHC he has had the opportunity to travel throughout the circumpolar region to engage with communities and share ideas on how to increase involvement of rural and remote communities in the design of sustainable northern structures. Semple is Co-chairing the NHF along with Scott Reid.

"There are many issues, such as the transportation challenge of bringing materials into small remote communities, that are unique to the north which is why it's important to have an event that focuses on northern housing. We know increasing fuel costs and climate change will have major impacts on northern communities in the future, which is why the timing of the forum is particularly important. In many ways, the urgency of these issues is resulting in rapid improvements to northern housing with regard to energy efficiency," said Semple.

"With all this in mind, when developing the NHF panel sessions and identifying speakers and panelists, we focused on bringing in people who are actively involved in exploring northern housing issues and experts in developing solutions."

Dennis Johansson was the first delegate to register for the NHF. Johansson earned his Ph.D. in Building Physics and Building Services, specializing in Heat Recovery and Ventilation systems. He is also an Associate Professor at Lund University, in Sweden.

"We have issues in northern Sweden that are similar to what's happening in communities located in the high Arctic of Canada," said Johansson.

"Transportation isn't as much of a problem, but we share an interest in the economics of building better performing houses, and how to optimize the life cycle economics connected to our passive houses."

He says he looks forward to sharing his knowledge and learning more about heat recovery ventilation and how heat recovery systems are being applied to residential buildings in harsh northern climates. He says moisture issues and how moisture affects highly efficient homes is a topic he's interested in discussing while in Inuvik as well.

University of Lund Associate Professor of Building Services, Dennis Johansson

"We need to learn from worldwide experience in these areas, particularly in colder climates. I hope I will get into these problems, learn some new ideas and build new relationships with people who I can continue to explore these issues with."

This will be Johansson's first trip to Inuvik.

"I am looking forward to learning about the culture and the city, and want to take a trip out on an ice-road," said Johansson. "It would also be interesting to see different houses in the region from an energy perspective."

It is anticipated that the information gathered from the forum will result in a better understanding about housing and housing need in a northern jurisdiction. For the NWTHC specifically, what is learned at the forum will be applied to improve housing quality, reduce costs, and improve energy efficiencies.

Northern Sustainable Housing - housing for Northerners by Northerners

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) recognizes that the best housing solutions are those designed with input from the people who will be living in them. In an effort to find a housing solution designed by Northerners, for Northerners, the NWTHC is partnering with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the residents of the NWT on the design and construction of a Northern Sustainable House.

The goal of the Northern Sustainable House is to find a housing design that will provide an adequate, affordable and suitable housing solution with high energy efficiency and design features that recognize our diverse culture.

To achieve this, the NWTHC and its partners have designed a northern housing prototype that meets or exceeds the EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) rating of 85 while being economical and functional. To involve community members, two sessions were undertaken in Inuvik to seek northerners' ideas and suggestions about what the final design should take into consideration.

"The design of our first Northern Sustainable House didn't begin until we spoke to community members, Elders, leaders and builders in the community that the first Northern Sustainable House will be built in," said NWTHC Manager of Design Development, John Robson.

In 2009, the NWTHC and CMHC met with residents and industry representatives from Inuvik in an effort to create a prototype design for further review across the NWT. Based on this input from the stakeholders involved, a preliminary design was developed with emphasis in the areas of construction and insulation systems, heating and ventilation systems and energy efficiency.

"Our design team heard many comments and suggestions from the local stakeholders and, where possible, we are working to incorporate what we learned at those meetings. The goal is to develop a design concept that is uniquely northern while promising to meet the most stringent energy efficient standards in the world," said Robson.

The design development concept that resulted from these consultations will be on display for viewing by forum participants from around the world at the Northern Housing Forum taking place from March 22-25 in Inuvik - but it doesn't end there.

Over the coming months the NWTHC will continue to seek input from regions throughout the NWT so that the Northern Sustainable Housing Project delivers a home that reflects what residents expect in terms of layout, practicality, and energy efficiency.

When completed, it will be a home that truly reflects the concept of a home built by Northerners for Northerners.

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Northern Housing Forum, 2010

Keynote Speakers:

Nellie Cournoyea

Nellie Cournoyea is the CEO and Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. In 2008 Ms. Cournoyea was made an officer of the Order of Canada. She was awarded honorary doctorates in law from Lakehead University, Carleton University and the University of Toronto. Nellie Cournoyea is at the forefront of the revolution that's taking place in the far north today to modernize and be competitive in a global village. Through IRC, the parent of the Inuvialuit Corporate Group with a net worth of some $400 million, Ms. Cournoyea creates opportunities across many disciplines for northerners while ensuring the Inuvialuit maintain control of their resources and financial destiny.

Juhani Pallasmaa

Juhani Pallasmaa, architect SAFA, Hon. FAIA, Int FRIBA and professor, runs his architectural office in Helsinki. He has been active in urban planning, architecture, exhibition, product and graphic design since early 1960s. Mr. Pallasmaa has held many positions including Professor and Dean, Helsinki University of Technology (91-97); Director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture (78-83), and; Rector of the Institute of Design, Helsinki (70-71). He has held several visiting professorships in the USA and lectured widely in Europe, North and South American, Africa and Asia. Mr. Pallasmaa has published 25 books and over 300 essays in 30 languages. Titles include *The Thinking Hand* (2009), *Encounters: Architectural Essays* (2005), *The Architecture of Image: Existential Space in Cinema* (2001 and 2007), and *The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses* (1995 and 2005).

John F. Straube

John F. Straube, Ph.D., P.Eng., is a specialist building science engineer who is involved in the areas of building enclosure design, moisture physics, and whole building performance as a consultant, researcher, and educator. He is also a faculty member in the Department of Civil Engineering and the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo where he teaches courses in structural design, material science and building science to both disciplines. Energy-efficient, healthy, durable and sustainable building designs are a general goal of his research which is often supported by advanced computer simulation, laboratory testing and full-scale natural exposure performance monitoring.

Bill Semple

As an architect and a builder, Bill Semple has been a champion of some of the most progressive and creative housing projects in the North. Mr. Semple is an expert in the process of getting rural communities involved in the design of sustainable northern structures that look at traditional design, the needs of elders, cultural and family needs and what is needed to get the best use out of a home. Mr. Semple is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cold Climate Housing Research Centre in Fairbanks, Alaska and a Research Associate with the Arctic Institute of North America.

Andy Moorehouse

Mr. Andy Moorehouse was elected Mayor of the Northern Village of Inukjuak in 2003 after serving as President of Saputiit Youth Association of Nunavik where he worked to improve the quality of life of Youth. He used the opportunity to voice the needs and concerns of the young population to government departments and to regional organizations of Nunavik. In 2005 Mr. Moorehouse joined the Makivik Corporation as Economic Development Officer where he worked closely with the Makivik Vice-President of Economic Development to generate and implement economic opportunities in Nunavik. Mr. Moorehouse was the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau and from 2007 to the present day, Mr. Moorhouse serves as the President of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB). KMHB has a total budget of $ 124 Million and manages approximately 2,000 social housing units. Recently, Mr. Moorhouse was successful in securing $150 million to begin major renovations of current housing units under KMHB's care.

From March 23-25 delegates will attend six panel sessions with presentations from experts on each topic. The panel sessions are:

Session 1: Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies for the North

Session 2: Strategies for Existing Buildings

Session 3: Costing Lessons and Strategies

Session 4: Capacity Building in Northern Communities

Session 5: Slices of Time

Session 6: Northern Design

For more information about the forum go to: www.nhf2010.ca